

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Question:* Do I need a permit to erect a sign on my own property?

Answer: If you wish to advertise on-premise activities or personal opinion, you would not need a permit. However, if you wish to advertise off-premise advertisements on a regulated route, a permit would be required.

2. *Question:* How long is my permit valid?

Answer: In the case of a new permit, the permit holder will have 2 years to erect the sign. Thereafter, permits are renewed every 2 years.

3. *Question:* When a permit is issued or transferred to me, what is my responsibility?

Answer: When a sign permit is issued to you or transferred into your name, you accept all legal and financial responsibility. All outstanding fees must be paid before transfers can be processed.

4. *Question:* When I am ready to erect my sign, how do I locate the right of way line?

Answer: It is the permit holder's responsibility to locate the right of way and ensure the sign is placed on private property. Highway plan sheets are available at any MoDOT District Office.

5. *Question:* Do I need to have an ad/message posted on my sign at all times?

Answer: Non-Conforming signs must not be without an advertisement message for a continuous period of 12 months.

6. *Question:* How often will my sign be inspected and billed for renewal fees?

Answer: All signs are inspected every two years and will be billed for renewal fees at that time. Your invoice will be mailed to you, providing we have your current billing address.

7. *Question:* If I fail to pay my renewal fees, what will happen?

Answer: If you do not pay your renewal fees in a timely fashion, your permit will be set to an illegal status and a Notice to Remove/Terminate will be issued, allowing you 60 days to remit the outstanding fee or remove the structure. If the outstanding fees are not paid within the 60 day timeframe, MoDOT has the right to remove the structure at the permit holder/sign owner's expense.

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8. *Question:* My permit states that my sign is in “non-conforming” status. What does that mean?

Answer: Non-conforming status means that your sign no longer meets one or more of the current statutory requirements as far as sizing, lighting, spacing or location. Therefore limiting you to the changes that can be made to your sign.

9. *Question:* If I have a discrepancy with the landowner, what recourse do I have?

Answer: MoDOT is not responsible for any written or verbal agreements between the permit holder and the landowner.

10. *Question:* If I am a permit holder, do I need to inform MoDOT of my change of address or of a change in landowner?

Answer: Yes, it is the responsibility of the permit holder to inform MoDOT of any address changes applicable to the permit.

11. *Question:* If 50% or more of my sign structure is damaged, can I rebuild it?

Answer: No, if 50% or more of the sign structure is damaged the structure must be removed and the permit void.

12. *Question:* What if I want to sell my sign structure?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the permit holder to notify MoDOT of the sale of the sign. A transfer form should be obtained from our office, completed by you and then provided to the buyer. The buyer should then remit the completed form to our office and we will then update our records accordingly.

13. *Question:* Why do I see signs that don't appear to meet the current spacing requirements?

Answer: As the law has changed over a period of years, the spacing requirements have also changed. Structures that no longer meet requirements but did before the law changed are grandfathered and allowed to remain with a status of non-conforming. However, any new structure would have to meet current requirements.